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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *June* the 19th, 1755.

I SHALL make no apology for the following miſcellanious letters, unleſs it be to the writers of them, for ſo long delaying their publication.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

THE late earl marſhal applying to a bookſeller at Paris for ſome Engliſh books, was anſwered by the Frenchman, that he had none in his ſhop, except *une petite bagatelle*, called the bible. Your readers will be informed, that this *petite bagatelle*, as the bookſeller termed

termed it, contains (among other matters) ſome little treatiſes of eaſtern wiſdom, and particularly certain maxims collected by one king Solomon, of whom mention is made in Prior's poems. Solomon was, as captain Bluff ſays of Scipio, a pretty fellow in his day, though moſt of his maxims have been confuted by experience. But I only make mention of him to ſhew how exactly the *virtuous woman* of that monarch correſponds with the *fine lady* of the preſent times.

WHO can find a virtuous woman? ſays Solomon. By the way, he muſt have kept ſad company, or elſe *virtuous women* were extremely ſcarce in thoſe days: for it will be no boaſt to ſay, that five thouſand *virtuous women* may be aſſembled at any time in this metropolis, on a *night's* warning. Solomon deſcribes the character ſo that it is not eaſy to miſtake it. *She bringeth her food from afar.* That is to ſay, the tea-table of the *virtuous woman* is ſupplied with ſugar and cordials from Barbadoes, and with tea from China; the bread and butter and ſcandal only being the produce of her native country. *She riſeth while it is yet night.* This cannot literally be ſaid of our modern *virtuous women*; but one may venture to aſſert, that if to riſe *while it is yet night*, be the characteriſtic of virtue, to *ſit up the whole night*, and thereby to have no occaſion for riſing at all, muſt imply no ordinary meaſure of good. *She ſtrengtheneth her arms.* This is a circumſtance of ſome delicacy: ſuch myſteries ſuit not the vulgar ear. The huſband of the *virtuous woman* may ſay, as the poet ſays of friendſhip with the great, *expertus metuit. She maketh herſelf coverings of tapeſtry; her cloathing is ſilk and purple.* This plainly indicates that no lady can be conſummately *virtuous*, unleſs ſhe wear brocaded

ed ſilks, and robings of French embroidery. To theſe Solomon, with all the accuracy of a tire-woman, adds purple ribbons. This paſſage is liable to miſapplication; but the words *ſhe* MAKETH *herſelf coverings*, mean not that a *virtuous woman* muſt of neceſſity be a work-woman; *to make*, ſignifies *to occaſion the making of any thing*: thus a perſon is ſaid to *make intereſt*, when in truth it is not he, but his money that makes the intereſt. Thus Auguſtus fought battles by proxy; and thus many reſpectable perſonages beget children. So that a *virtuous woman* need not embroider in perſon; let her *pay* for the work ſhe beſpeaks, and no more is required. *Her huſband is known in the gates.* More univerſally known by his relation to his wife, than by his own name. Thus you are told at public places, "That is "Mrs. Such a-one's huſband, or he that married Lady "Such-a-one." *He ſitteth among the elders of the land.* At White's, where the elders of the land aſſemble themſelves.

LET me add one more inſtance of the ſimilitude between a *fine lady* and the *virtuous woman* of Solomon, and I have done. When a lady returns home, at five in the morning, from the nocturnal myſteries of brag, how muſt the heart of her huſband exult, when he ſees her flambeaux rivalling the light of the ſun! May he not cry out in the words of the eaſtern monarch, *Bleſſed is the virtuous woman; her candle goeth not out by night?*

I am, ſir,

Your moſt humble ſervant.

MR. FITZ ADAM,

I HAVE had the honour of ſitting in the three laſt parliaments; for as it was always my opinion that an honeſt man ſhould ſacrifice every private conſideration

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to the ſervice of his country, I ſpared no expence at my elections, nor afterwards to ſupport an intereſt in my borough, by giving annuities to half the corporation, building a town-hall, a market-houſe, and a new ſteeple to the church, together with a preſent of a ring of bells that uſed to ſtun me with their noiſe. To defray all theſe expences, I was obliged to mortgage my eſtate to it's full value, excepting only two thouſand pounds, which ſum I took up againſt the laſt general election, and went down to my borough, where I was told there would be an oppoſition. What I heard was true; an abſolute ſtranger had declared himſelf a candidate; and though I ſpent every farthing of my two thouſand pounds, and was promiſed the votes and intereſt of the mayor and corporation, they every man of them went againſt me, and I loſt my election.

As I have now no opportunity of ſerving my country, and have a wife and ſeven ſmall children to maintain, I have been at laſt concerting meaſures how I might do a ſmall ſervice to myſelf: and as there are many worthy gentlemen at preſent in the ſame unfortunate ſituation, I cannot think of a better expedient, than to recommend to the parliament at their next meeting, the paſſing an act for raiſing a fund towards the building and endowing an hoſpital for the relief and ſupport of decayed members. I mention it thus early, becauſe I would give the legiſlature time to deliberate upon ſuch a propoſal. And ſurely, Mr. Fitz-Adam, if the loſs of a limb ſhall be ſufficient to entitle the meaneſt ſoldier or ſailor in the ſervice to this privilege, how much more worthy of relief is the diſabled patriot, who has ſacrificed his family and fortune to the intereſt of his country!

Your inſerting this letter will greatly oblige, ſir,

Your very humble ſervant,

B. D.

P. S.

P. S. All gentlemen reſiding in town, who have loſt their fortunes by former parliaments, and their elections in this, are deſired to meet on Saturday the 21ſt of this inſtant June, at three o'clock in the afternoon at the cat and bagpipe in St. Giles's, to conſider of the above propoſal, or of other ways and means for their immediate ſupport. N. B. A dinner will be provided at nine-pence a head.

Sir,

The proſtitution of characters, given in behalf of bad ſervants, has been long a grievance, demanding the attention of the public. Give me leave to awaken it, by a ſpecimen from my own experience.

Some time ſince, an old ſervant left me, upon ſhort notice. I had another recommended, as *very honeſt*, by a neighbouring family, whom he had ſerved. As I was preſſed for time, I took him upon that ſingle qualification, in lieu of all the reſt; and relying upon the repeated aſſurance of his integrity, repoſed an entire confidence in him. In ſome little time, however, finding an increaſe of expence in the articles under his particular management, I diſcovered upon obſervation, that the perquiſites, or rather plunder of his province, had been nearly doubled. His diſmiſſion, you may imagine, enſued, and complaint to the perſons who had recommended him. The anſwer was, that they knew him to be a ſad fellow, by the tricks he had played them; but that they would not ſay a word of it, becauſe they thought it *wicked* to hinder him of a place.

Now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, I conceive it to be but a *wicked world*, when gentlemen will help thieves and robbers to get into people's houſes; and I ſhall take for the future a bare acquittal at the Old Bailey, as a better recommendation than that of ſuch a friend. I am, ſir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant, A. B.

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